

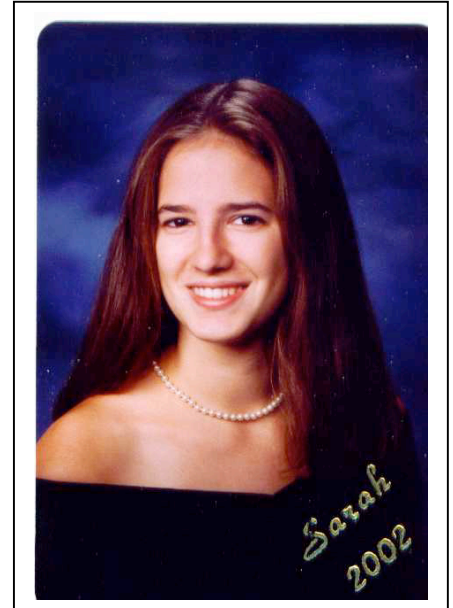
SARAH SONNETT

College of Charleston
Charleston, SC

Physics, Astronomy, and Music
Bachelor of Science, May 2006

**NASA Academy Research Project:
Ground-based Detection of Transits of
Extra-Solar Planets**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Timothy
Castellano



Education

I began my college education as a music major, with science and engineering courses in my peripheral schedule. After switching to a science discipline then transferring schools, I happily ended up pursuing a degree in Physics with a concentration in Astronomy and a minor in music; this is my second year attending college. The curriculum for this program includes basic physics and astronomy-related topics. I particularly enjoy the Astronomy classes, but I find all of them interesting and valuable applications to my future. Of the courses offered, I have taken Planetary Astronomy, Stellar Astronomy, Non-Radial Oscillations of Stars, Differential Equations, Vector Calculus, and Statics.

Experience:

My previous research experience includes work with variable stars. During the 2003-2004 Academic Year, I worked with my current advisor, Dr. Robert J. Dukes, Jr. on obtaining, reducing, and analyzing data on light variations of stars. I presented my Fall 2003 findings as primary author in a poster entitled "Frequency Identification in Light Variations of the Lambda Bootis Star HD 111604" at the 203rd annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Atlanta, GA. I am presently completing a paper for publication on my research. Now, I am very excited about the opportunity to explore other fields of Astronomy, particularly the fascinating topic of extra-solar planets.

Extra-curricular Activities:

Outside of school and work, I spend a lot of time pursuing my second passion: music. I am in my 13th year playing piano and 9th year playing trumpet (in various orchestras, bands, and soon to be symphonies). I also sing, especially in the shower, and have been known to dabble in recording. I love dancing in all forms and took lessons in everything from ballet, jazz, tap, lyrical, and hip hop for 15 years. Beyond the arts, I enjoy surfing, going to concerts, card games, boating, and traveling. I love the beach and am willing to try any new water sport. I recently took up skateboarding and making balloon animals, but don't count on me to be very skilled in either for a while! I think it's a shame that our school doesn't have a tap troop, and I hope to start one in the Fall of 2004. Also on the agenda for next year is taking up kickboxing and indulging in a skydiving trip.

